

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-13 JUSE-00
NSAE-00 SNM-02 TRSE-00 NSC-05 OES-06 OMB-01 AGRE-00
DODE-00 AID-05 IGA-02 PM-04 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /071 W

-----182250Z 086158 /73

O 182200Z JAN 77 ZFF-4

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9746

INFO ALL US CONSULATES IN MEXICO POUCH

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DEPT PASS ALL CCINC AGENCIES

EO 11652 : N/A

TAGS : SNAR MX

SUBJ : NARCOTICS - GOM REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR STEPPED-
UP EFFORT

1. SUMMARY : GOM ATTORNEY GENERAL CALLED ON AMBASSADOR
JANUARY 17; REVIEWED PROGRAM PLANS, AND STATED THERE
IS URGENT NEED FOR ADDITIONAL EQUIPMENT TO SUPPORT GOM
EFFORT AGAINST NARCOTICS. AMBASSADOR PROMISED
RAISE ISSUE DURING VISIT TO WASHINGTON. END SUMMARY.

2. ATTORNEY GENERAL (AG) OSCAR FLORES-SANCHEZ, ACCOM-
PANIED BY DEPUTY AG SAMUEL ALBA-LEYVA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
FERNANDO BAEZA MELENDEZ, AVIATION ADVISOR SALVADOR MARI-
SCAL-FLORES, AND FNU FLORES (AG'S SON), CALLED ON AMBASSADOR
AFTERNOON OF JANUARY 17. WITH THE AMBASSADOR WERE
DCM, SPECIAL ASSISTANT, NARCOTICS ATTACHE, AND ASSISTANCE
PROGRAM OFFICER. FOLLOW-UP MEETING BETWEEN AG EXECUTIVE
OFFICER, AG AVIATION ADVISOR, AND EMBASSY OFFICERS
(SPECIAL ASSISTANT), ASSISTANCE PROGRAM OFFICER, AND
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DEA TRIZO COORDINATOR), WAS HELD SAME EVENING.

3. AG OPENED INITIAL MEETING BY STATING THAT HE HAD
JUST RETURNED FROM PERSONAL INSPECTION OF ACTIVITIES IN
CULIACAN ACCOMPANIED BY GEN GALVAN LOPEZ (MINISTER OF
DEFENSE). HE ASSERTED THAT IT USELESS TO MOUNT ANY
ANTI-NARCOTICS EFFORT IF GOAL IS NOT 100 PERCENT SUC-

CESS, SINCE WHAT IS NECESSARY IN TRADITIONAL GROWING AREAS IS PERVASIVE SHOW OF FORCE. GOM THEREFORE PLANS TO CONTINUE SPRAY PROGRAM AGAINST POPPY AT MAXIMUM POSSIBLE LEVEL. COUPLED WITH THIS EFFORT, GOM PLANS TO DEPLOY APPROXIMATELY 1500 MILITARY PERSONNEL TO MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING AREA IN NORTHWEST. THESE PERSONNEL WILL HAVE FOLLOWING MISSIONS: (A) DESTROY WITH HAND SPRAYERS THOSE FIELDS WHICH CANNOT BE REACHED BY SPRAY HELICOPTERS; (B) MAINTAIN PLATOON-SIZE PRESENCE IN VILLAGES NEAR CONCENTRATIONS OF POPPY FIELDS TO PREVENT ATTEMPTS TO HARVEST OR REPLANT; (C) INTERDICT WHATEVER OPIUM GUM MAY ESCAPE DESTRUCTION; AND (D) SEARCH OUT AND ARREST THOSE INVOLVED IN TRAFFICKING.

4. TO SUPPORT MILITARY PERSONNEL AG REQUESTED LOAN FOR APPROXIMATELY FOUR MONTHS OF FOUR MEDIUM-LIFT HELICOPTERS (SUCH AS CHINOOK). AG SAID ERADICATION CAMPAIGN WORKING WELL WITH PRESENT EQUIPMENT AND HE DOES NOT WISH TO DIVERT EXISTING 212 HELICOPTERS FROM SPRAY SUPPORT TO TROOP TRANSPORT. (AT SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH AG EXECUTIVE OFFICER, HE STATED THERE IS NO WAY THAT OTHER GOM HELICOPTERS COULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR THIS REQUIREMENT. GOM OIL AND ELECTRIC COMPANIES HAVE CONTINUING REQUIREMENTS OF THEIR OWN AND AIR FORCE CANNOT IMMEDIATELY DEPLOY SUFFICIENT AIRCRAFT, EVEN ASSUMING AG COULD CONVINCE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE THAT NARCOTICS PROGRAM OVERRIDES ALL OTHER MILITARY REQUIREMENTS. IN OFF-THE-RECORD COMMENT, DURING EVENING MEETING, EXECUTIVE OFFICER CONFIDED THAT AG LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WAS ABLE TO OBTAIN NECESSARY MILITARY PERSONNEL BY AGREEING TO PROVIDE TACTICAL TRANSPORT).

5. AG CONTINUED BY DISCUSSING PLANS FOR INCREASED TRACKING AND SEARCHING OF PLEASURE VESSELS AND FISHING FLEET, FOR DAILY MONITORING OF MEXICAN GENERAL AVIATION AIR FLEET, AND FOR INCREASED AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF MEXICO'S SOUTHERN BORDER TO LOCATE AIRFIELDS USED BY COCAINE SMUGGLERS TO REFUEL AIRCRAFT. HE ASKED, AND NARCOTICS ATTACHE PROMISED, SHARING OF INTELLIGENCE GENERATED BY EMBASSIES BOGOTA AND GUATEMALA.

6. AG STATED HIS DISSATISFACTION WITH MULTISPECTRAL PHOTOGRAPHY (MOPSS) TO DATE, SAYING PRODUCT WAS TOO LATE (MINIMUM FIVE DAYS) FOR TACTICAL USAGE. HE FEELS BOTH USG AND GOM WASTING MONEY ON THIS TECHNIQUE. HE AGREED WITH AMBASSADOR, HOWEVER, THAT MOPSS SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHANCE NOW THAT MAJOR BUGS

WORKED OUT AND THAT IT MAY HAVE STRATEGIC IF NOT TACTICAL VALUE. IT HAS, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCCESSFULLY IDENTIFIED CLANDESTINE AIRSTRIPS IN POPPY GROWING AREAS, WHICH AG SAID ARE BEING DYNAMITED.

7. AG THEN BRIEFED AMBASSADOR ON WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS THAT HAVE OCCURRED IN RECENT DAYS ON TECHNICAL PERSONNEL SALARY DIFFERENTIALS AND REIMBURSEMENT FOR SPRAY TRAINING AND SPRAY EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL. AG ALSO STATED THAT HE PERCEIVED NEED FOR ADDITIONAL SPRAY HELICOPTERS TO FILL IN FOR THOSE DOWN FOR MAINTENANCE SO AS TO KEEP ADQUATE NUMBER ON LINE.

8. AG CONCLUDED PRESENTATION BY SAYING HE WANTED TO BRING "HIS THOUGHTS AND HIS DOUBTS" TO THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION AND TO REQUEST THAT USG PROVIDE THE EQUIPMENT NEEDED FOR A SUCCESSFUL EFFORT. AMBASSADOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PROMISED TO RAISE THESE ISSUES DURING HIS VISIT TO WASHINGTON.

9. MISSION RECOMMENDATIONS ON SPECIFIC ASSISTANCE REQUESTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EQUIPMENT, DRUG CONTROL, DRUG TRAFFIC, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977MEXICO00642
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770018-1182
Format: TEL
From: MEXICO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770142/aaaabkjl.tel
Line Count: 144
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 817947d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3573137
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NARCOTICS - GOM REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR STEPPED- UP EFFORT
TAGS: SNAR, MX, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/817947d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009